

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT and JUDICIAL PROCESS ACADEMIC YEAR 2002-2003

Preamble

Shippensburg University is an academic community whose membership includes faculty, staff, students and administrators. The community exists for the pursuit of learning, the transmission of knowledge, the development of students as scholars and citizens, and ultimately, for the general well-being of society. Freedom of inquiry, speech, action, and expression is indispensable in the attainment of these goals. Academic freedom is at the cornerstone of the enterprise.

Students, as members of the academic community, are encouraged to engage in a sustained, critical, and independent search for knowledge. The University community supports this endeavor by developing policies and procedures that safeguard the freedoms necessary for the pursuit of truth and knowledge. The University will strive to protect these freedoms if they are not inflammatory, demeaning, or harmful toward others. It is therefore expected that students will exercise these freedoms in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others in the community. Behavior that interferes with the living conditions, co-curricular activities, working environments, teaching mission, research activities, study conditions, and/or administrative functions of the University is unacceptable. Acts of intolerance directed toward other community members will not be condoned. This is especially true, but not limited to, acts of intolerance directed at others for ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientation, physical, lifestyle, religious, age, and/or political characteristics.

With freedom come duties and responsibilities. A student who exercises his or her freedoms as a private citizen and member of the academic community -- whether individually or as a member of a group --- must assume full responsibility for his or her actions. All Shippensburg University students must abide by local, state, and federal laws and with all published University policies, procedures, rules and regulations. Violations of laws and regulations will subject the person to disciplinary action by the University and/or the appropriate civil or criminal court.

The University judicial process attempts to teach civic principles within the context of the academic mission. The process views students as adults, and as such, expects them to be aware of applicable local, state, and federal laws. Students are also expected to understand their rights and responsibilities as outlined in the student code of conduct and judicial process of the University. The judicial system strives to provide a fundamentally fair process, and should be viewed as separate from the civil and criminal court systems.